

Noxubee

National Wildlife Refuge

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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1940.
- Acres: 48,000 located in Noxubee, Oktibbeha, and Winston counties, MS.
- Location: approximately 17 miles south of Starkville, MS.

Natural History

1,800 acres are comprised of Loakfoma and Bluff Lakes. Approximately 42,500 acres of the refuge are comprised of bottomland and upland woodlands. These forest lands are occupied by a variety of game species including quail, deer and turkey.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 14-person staff.
- 142,000 visitors annually.
- Current budget (FY 98) \$550,000.
- Refuge generated 5.4 million in revenue in FY 96 through visitors and forestry practices.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds.
- Provide habitat and protection for endangered species such as bald eagles, wood storks and red-cockaded woodpeckers.
- Provide recreation and environmental education for the public.

Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl, wood storks and wading bird rookeries.
- Cooperative farming.
- Prescribed fire.
- Mechanical/chemical control of noxious plants.
- Deer management with public hunting.
- Education/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.

Public Use Opportunities

- Trails.
- Boardwalk.
- Three observation towers.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Hunting, including youth hunt.
- Fishing.

Calendar of Events

April: birding festival to observe the peak of migrants passing through the refuge.

May: Migratory Bird Day.

October: National Wildlife Refuge Week.

December: Annual Christmas Bird Count.

Questions and Answers

What is there to do here?

There are seven different walking trails varying in length from 1/4-mile to more than 4 miles in length, three overlooks, a boardwalk and a picnic area. Depending on the time of year, there is hunting and fishing too. There are numerous places for great photography, wildlife observation and for wildflower observation.

Where is the best place to fish?

There are countless areas to fish on the refuge—some better than others. There is no one “best” place, however, if you look for the crowded spots undoubtedly there is a “good” place.

Where can we see alligators?

During summer months the visitor has the best chance to see alligators. The lakes are low and the alligators are plentiful. The most regular place to see alligators is off Alligator Point, just east up the Bluff Lake Levee from the Bluff Lake Boardwalk.

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What do we need to hunt here?

All refuge hunts require that hunters have the required state permits/licenses as well as refuge permits. For quota deer hunts a permit must be purchased by mail or in person from the refuge office for \$12.50. For the non-quota or small game hunts, the refuge hunting brochure acts as a permit when the front is signed to acknowledge the fact the hunter has read and understood the refuge regulations.

*Where can we see
a red-cockaded woodpecker?*

The best times to spot a red-cockaded woodpecker are at sunrise and sunset near cavity trees. At sunrise they come out and sunset they go back in. There are several accessible clusters of woodpeckers on the refuge. The closest cluster to the office is on the Woodpecker Trail.